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When Mr. Ford asked about the amendment he appeared to know very little about it. Later he said very calmly: "I don't know anything about it, except that it is a very important question." He exhibited none of the fire that marked the chairman's remarks. He last week he sent out messengers to find Mr. Coleman.

His answers were indignant at the treatment accorded the bill.

"I knew nothing of the proposed amendment," he said. "I was not introduced in the form which Mr. Fulton and the associated counsel wanted it. They wanted to change it into a bill for the amendment, and its connection with the bill came to us a great surprise."

Mr. Ford said that the proposed amendment was neither necessary nor desirable. The rights of railroad companies are fully protected by the law, and the proposed amendment would violate the law and equity governing such a case.

Any amendments, if carried, might saddle upon the City of New York a large contingent liability for the misdeeds of the railroads, or might require the city to pay and which they should bear. The bill as introduced provides for the use of the streets and sidewalks by the railroads, and if companies, if injured, can recover compensation from the city, it would be a large source of law suits and proceedings into which it seems neither necessary nor wise to enter.